

Mid America Hearing Center

Licensed Hearing Aid Dealers & Fitters

P O Box 1546 - 111 N. Highway 248 - Northside Plaza - Branson, Missouri 65616

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September 22, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As manager of a small business, and as a licensed and Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist, I write with respect to hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but greatly underutilized medical devices.

I am very concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialists. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care services for millions of Americans.

Very truly yours,



Glenda Gillaspay, BC-HIS
License #1111



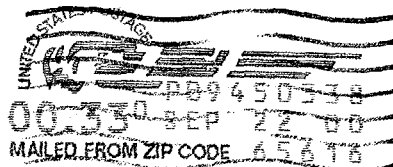
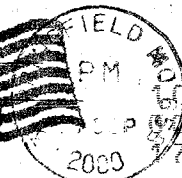
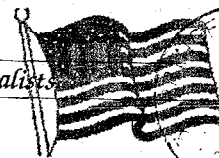
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Mid America Hearing Center

Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist

P.O. Box 1546 - Branson, Missouri 65615



HONORABLE DONNA SHALALA
SECRETARY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE
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